FBIS 33 (SEE 31--OVERTHROW OF BOKASSA)*****

FRANCE SENDS MILITARY DETACHMENT TO BANGUI

LD210930 PARIS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH 0900 GMT 21 SEP 79 LD

(EXCERPTS) FIRST REACTION FROM FRANCE AFTER THE FALL OF EMPEROR BOKASSA IN CENTRAL AFRICA: PARIS DECIDED A FEW MOMENTS AGO TO SEND A MILITARY DETACHMENT TO BANGUI, AND YVES LOISEAU (PARIS RADIO REPORTER--FBIS) HAS JUST TOLD ME THAT THE FRENCH TROOPS HAVE REPORTEDLY ALREADY LEFT. THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION STATES THAT THE FRENCH SOLDIERS SENT THERE WILL BE RECALLED AS SOON AS THE CENTRAL AFRICAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT THE SAFETY OF THE POPULATION IS ASSURED.

IT WAS THE NEW CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIME WHICH, A SHORT WHILE AGO, ASKED FRANCE FOR THIS ASSISTANCE, SO AS TO GIVE IMMEDIATE REASSURANCE TO THE POPULATION OF BANGUI. THIS MORNING, IN FACT, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ARMY IN THE STREETS OF THE TOWN.

FRANCE RECOGNIZES STATES AND NOT GOVERNMENTS, AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT CONTACTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE NEW CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIME AND FRANCE.

DAVID DACKO, THE NEW PRESIDENT, HAS JUST GONE ON THE RADIO TO PROCLAIM THE RESTORATION OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE SETTING-UP OF A GOVERNMENT OF PUBLIC SALVATION TO RESTORE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, WHICH IS PARTIALLY RUINED. DAVID DACKO VERY STRONGLY CRITICIZED BOKASSA'S REGIME, ITS ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EXCESSES.

THIS MORNING THERE IS CALM IN BANGUI, A PRECARIOUS CALM. THERE ARE FEARS OF REPRISALS FROM THE FORMER IMPERIAL GUARD, AND THAT IS IN FACT THE REASON WHY THE NEW REGIME HAS ASKED FRANCE FOR PROTECTION.

AS FOR THE FALLEN EMPEROR, HE IS STILL IN LIBYA. HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK FOR A COUNTRY IN WHICH TO TAKE REFUGE. HIS WIFE, EX-EMPRESS CATHERINE, IS NOW AT THE CHATEAU OF (HARDRICORT) IN FRANCE, IN YVELINES, A PROPERTY WHICH BELONGS TO THE BOKASSA FAMILY. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF HER HUSBAND WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN HER THERE

21 SEP 1002Z JHM/TM*****

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